

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: Nathaniel Russell House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 51 Meeting Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston			
STATE South Carolina	CODE 045	COUNTY: Charleston	CODE 019

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: Historic Charleston Foundation			
STREET AND NUMBER: 51 Meeting Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 019	

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Charleston County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse Square			
CITY OR TOWN: Charleston	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 045	

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Preliminary Survey of Historic Sites is South Carolina			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: South Carolina Department of Archives and History			
STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 11188 Capital Station			
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE: South Carolina	CODE 045	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) :			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built ca. 1809 and done in the Adam style, the house is in the form of a rectangle, conforming partially to the outline of a single house, but with a strongly projecting four-sided bay which rises the full three stories of the central block of the house. Its face is dressed with marble window lintels, relief brickcourses, lovely bright red cutting brick arches above the windows of the second story, and topped with a paneled balustrade running fully about the central block and the south bay. House is constructed of brick and has hipped roof.

The interior plan is admirably open, considering the restrictions of space, with entry into a full width hall which leads in turn to a stair hall, the oval library in the bay, and a dining room. The free-flying stairs lead to a second story with two drawing rooms adjoined and a principal bedroom.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1809

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |  |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nathaniel Russell House is an excellent example of the Adam style of architecture. Russell's house was built when local carpenters had a decade of experience with the light and airy manner made popular by Robert Adam. His house has been called an exercise in ellipses, for from its free-flying stair to the wrought iron balconies, to the principal windows and doors, we find the expression of movement, combining in a contrast of forms. It was the last great house of the city's post-revolutionary period.

The interior detail, varied from room to room, has all the delicacy and intricate ambition of the American version of the Adam manner. Slender double-encased pilasters in door and window architraves, Chippendale fret, anthemions, the iris, urns and swags, combine and enhance each other in both plaster and wood to give the rooms a most extraordinary refinement.

Another interesting refinement to the building is the use of red brick to form the arches above the windows. This was done in order to relieve the general monotony of the usual rust-colored bricks; therefore, the more spectacular houses at the end of the 18th Century and the beginning of the 19th Century dressed prominent features of the exteriors of buildings with a crimson colored brick of fine sandy quality known in both England and America as a "cutting", "rubbing" or "Windsor" brick. Sir John Summerson in his book Georgian London writes that it was an expensive brick capable of accurate cutting or shaping by rubbing the brick together. They could easily be made into wedge shapes to act as voussoirs either in flat door or window arches or in semicircular arches, giving good contrast. Examples of this work may be seen in abundance at the Nathaniel Russell House.

In the architectural survey of Charleston, a jury composed of Dr. William Murtagh, keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Professor Bernard Lemann, Tulane University School of Architecture, Mr. Carl Feiss and Mr. Russell Wright, consultants to the city, noted this structure as exceptional. This notation indicates that the building is of the highest architectural design quality, well-proportioned, and architecturally sophisticated. Windows, classical orders or other period designs, chimneys, verandahs, massing, materials, fixtures, refined detail, and craftsmanship are all elegant and innovative. The structure is to be preserved and protected in situ at all costs.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McClure, Harlan, et al. South Carolina Architecture 1670-1970. Columbia: Tricentennial Commission, 1970.

McKee, Henry J. (ed). Historic American Building Survey -- South Carolina Catalog. Washington; H.A.B.S. Commission, 1972.

Simons, Albert, and W.H.J. Thomas. An Architectural Guide to Charleston, South Carolina: 1700-1900 (Unpublished Manuscript). Charleston: Historic Charleston Foundation, 1972.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2/3 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Tray Stephenson and Bernard Kearse (Historic Preservation Division)</u>	
ORGANIZATION <u>South Carolina Department of Archives and History</u>	DATE <u>April 25, 1973</u>
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>1430 Senate Street</u>	
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Columbia</u>	STATE <u>South Carolina</u>
	CODE <u>045</u>

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name Charles E. Lee  
Charles E. Lee

Title State Liaison Officer  
Department of Archives & History

Date April 23, 1973

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

